

Optional Features for Outdoor Learning Areas

Pest Management

Description – An ideal outdoor learning area would allow students to experience first hand all aspects of modern pest management. Pest management principles play a part in every step of plant production, from choosing appropriate plants, to pest monitoring, to pest control decision-making, to harvesting techniques.

Size – Any size plot associated with commercial or cosmetic plantings is appropriate. Miniaturized versions may be used for demonstrations.

Location – Any area where garden, crop, or landscape plants are growing, such as flowerbeds, gardens, field crops, or orchards.



Materials and Techniques Needed – Plant disease and pest-resistant species, spacing plants appropriately. Select plants that bloom and bear fruit at different times of the year. Have available gardening tools and supplies, soil testing equipment, and pest identification guides,

Labor Needed – Normal gardening labor. Clean up plant litter and remove weeds before they go to seed. Water and add nutrients properly to increase plant vigor.

Technical Assistance – *IPM for the Outdoor Learning Area*, available through the University of Kentucky IPM Program, see <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/IPM/ipm.htm>

Maintenance – An outdoor learning area would require all the maintenance of a normal garden, flowerbed, or similar environment, plus the additional monitoring and maintenance associated with proper pest management.

Challenges – Because changes in pest populations and other conditions need to be monitored continually, an outdoor learning area should be accessible for frequent visits during the growing season. These changes offer an excellent learning opportunity for students.